



NOTICE

To: Well Owners/Users Impacted by the East Troublesome Fire
From: Alan Martellaro, Division Engineer
Date: April 14, 2021
Subject: Use of Groundwater from Wells in the East Troublesome Fire Burn Area

If you own or are supplied groundwater from a well within the East Troublesome Fire burn area, please continue reading for information regarding use of the well.

The [Division of Water Resources](#) is aware that well owners/users may be interested in temporarily using their wells for outside irrigation to re-establish trees and vegetation on their property as a part of restoration efforts resulting from the East Troublesome Fire. **Unfortunately, this temporary outside irrigation use may not be legal in some instances depending on the permitted use(s) of the well.** Accordingly, the Division of Water Resources, in conjunction with Grand County, Middle Park Water Conservancy District, Colorado River Water Conservation District, and Northern Water, are assessing the interest in a substitute water supply plan that would allow participating wells within the East Troublesome Fire burn area to be temporarily re-permitted to legally allow irrigation use. A substitute water supply plan is an administrative approval from the Division of Water Resources that would allow participating wells to be temporarily re-permitted to include irrigation as a legal use of groundwater without having to make application to Water Court for a plan for augmentation. While the details of such a plan are currently under consideration, we ask that you complete an online [survey](#) by May 16, 2021 to assist us in gauging the level of interest that well owners/users in the area have in participating in a substitute water supply plan.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY (<https://forms.gle/tcJhEbBvhPdUDCjr9>) BY MAY 16, 2021

Many wells are permitted for use limited to ordinary household purposes inside one (1) single family dwelling with **no outside uses allowed**. If a well owner/user wants to use their well for uses beyond those identified on the permit, they must apply for a new well permit to change/expand the use of the well. In this area of the state, permitting the well for a change/expansion of use and/or amount requires a [substitute water supply plan](#) approved by the State Engineer's Office or a [plan for augmentation](#) decreed by the Division 5 Water Court. **Use of a well beyond what is allowed by its permit may lead to enforcement actions by the Division of Water Resources, including an Order to cease and desist use of the well for all unpermitted use(s).**

The use(s) and amount of groundwater allowed from a well is limited to the use(s) and amount identified on the well permit issued by the Division of Water Resources. You can obtain a copy of a well permit and view all documents in the well permit file from the Division of Water Resources' website using the [Well Permit Search Tool](#). From the Division of Water Resources' homepage (<https://dwr.colorado.gov/>), click the "Search for a Well" link within the "I want to..." section. On the opening page of the Well Permit Search Tool, use the drop down list by "More Options" to search for the well by permit number, applicant name, PLSS, subdivision, etc. Once you have identified the permit of interest, click the "View" link to pull up detailed information for the selected permit. To view the actual permit, click on the "Imaged Documents" link at the top of the page and look for the document with a Type identified as "Well Permit" or "Original File". For additional assistance identifying the permit and use(s) allowed by a specific well, contact the [Division 5 Office](#) in Glenwood Springs or the Groundwater Information Desk in Denver at 303-866-3587.

